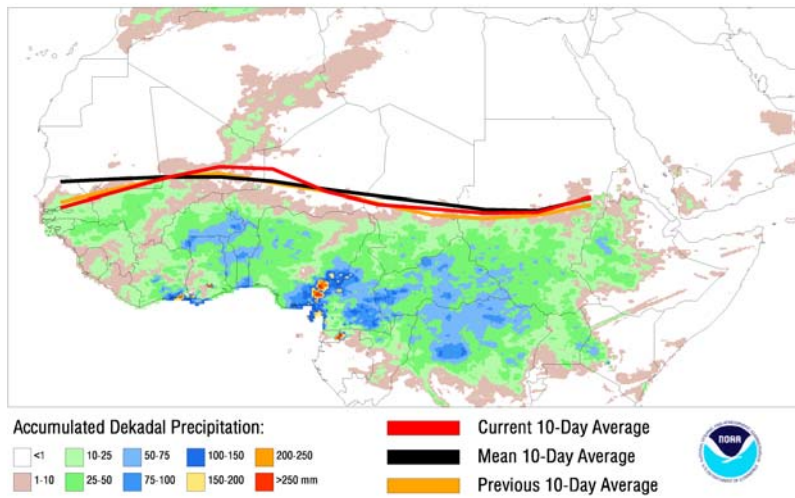
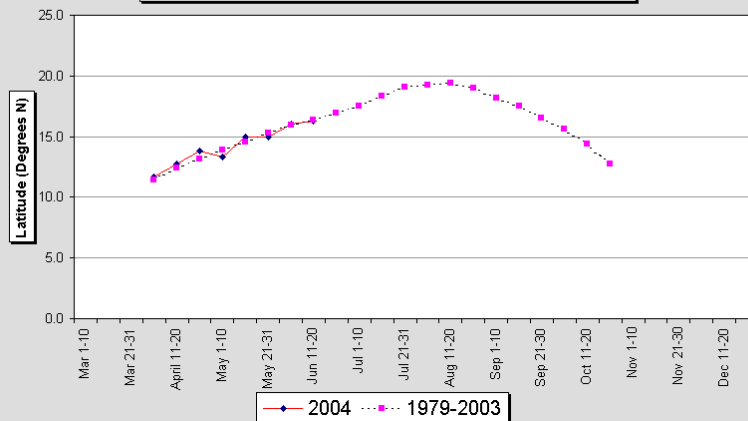


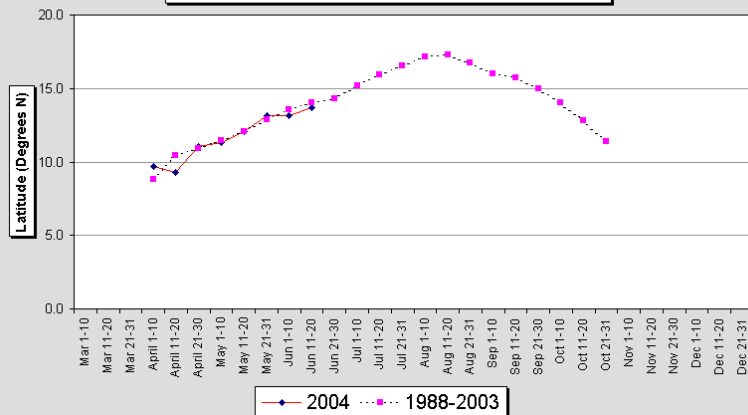
Position of the Africa ITCZ June 2004 Dekad 2



Mean Position of the ITCZ 10 degrees west - 10 degrees east longitude



Mean Position of the ITCZ 20-35 degrees east longitude



During the period from June 11-21 2004, the African portion of the ITCZ moved around 0.3 degrees north from the average position during the first dekad of June. This places the dekadal longitude-averaged location near 14.9N compared to the 1988-2003 mean of 15.2N and the 2003 dekad of 15.3N. Significant factors contributing to the mean position were a strong cold front passing through northern Algeria on June 14-17, generally normal easterly wave movement throughout the period, a weak MJO pattern, and strong northerly winds blowing through Mauritania into Senegal and western Mali. Figure 1 shows the current vs normal and previous ITCZ position for Africa. In the central and eastern regions, the current position is very close to the long term normal, though a southern bias exists in the extreme west and a northern bias is seen over eastern Mali and western Niger. Precipitation during the period was overall less than normal in the west except in and around Burkina, and substantial relative dryness was seen in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia. Figures 2 and 3 show the past year's progression of the ITCZ in the west and east, respectively. It is seen that each zone continues to see a near normal ITCZ position (west:16.3N current; 16.2N mean) (east:13.7N current; 13.9 mean) and movement northward continues at a steady rate.